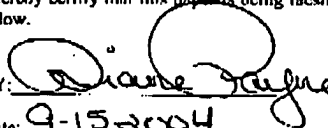


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BY: 
Date: 9-15-2004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of:
MEULMAN, Dirk, et al.

Serial Number: 09/380,695

Group Art Unit: 1617

Filed: March 29, 2002

Examiner: Wang, S.

For: USE OF A 7 α -METHYL-17 α -ETHYNYL-ESTRANE DERIVATIVE FOR
THE TREATMENT OF ATHEROSCLEROSIS

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Arlington, VA 22313

Dear Sir:

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION OF APRIL 15, 2004**I. Introduction**

Applicants respectfully respond to the Office Action of April 15, 2004
as follows: Please charge deposit account 02-2334 for any required fee and to
credit any credits.